

Editorial

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The Association for Behavior Analysis is pleased to announce that Julie S. Vargas (West Virginia University) has been appointed Editor of the *Behavior Analyst* for the next two years. James M. Johnston (University of Florida) has been appointed as Associate Editor during that time, after which he will become Editor for the next two years. Both of these actions were taken by the Executive Council at their post-convention meeting in Dearborn last June at the unanimous request of the Journal Advisory Board. Judy LeBlanc and I, who have been editing the Journal on an interim basis until an Editor could be formally appointed, will (gratefully) resume our positions on the Journal Advisory Board, which I will continue to Chair. Wayne Fuqua (Western Michigan University) will continue to serve as the Managing Editor.

The decision by Council to appoint Julie Vargas as Editor represents a substantial commitment by the Association to the future of the Journal; the trial period is over and the *Behavior Analyst* is officially launched. This does not mean, though, that the future success of the Journal is assured. Printing and mailing costs, which are rapidly increasing for all professional publications, must be offset with advertising revenues and subscription income, through budget allocations from the Association, or from some combination of the above. Obviously, all such sources of support depend upon publishing a journal of quality. The Journal Advisory Board and the Executive Council are extremely confident that Drs. Vargas and Johnston can provide the leadership and expertise to develop such a publication, but much will depend upon you, the

readers, to make sure that the *Behavior Analyst* becomes an important medium of communication within the field of behavior analysis.

The Editors will be preparing specific proposals regarding the future development of the Journal to present to ABA's Executive Council and members in the near future; in the meantime, though, one very clear request can be made . . . submit your manuscripts for publication!

We have been extremely fortunate in the first couple of years to have been able to publish some excellent papers, but many of these were solicited by members of the Advisory Board in order to be sure that we did have excellent papers to publish. There simply has not (yet) been a large number of unsolicited manuscripts to review for publication. Please examine your own writing projects for possible submissions to the *Behavior Analyst*. As described in the statement of editorial policy from Volume 1, Number 1, and reprinted on the following page, the *Behavior Analyst* publishes discussion articles concerning literature, method, and issues of broad interest to the membership of ABA. The only constraints include empirical studies and papers of formal philosophical concern, constraints designed to avoid competing with existing behavior analysis journals.

In conclusion, Judy LeBlanc and I wish to express our congratulations and offer our best wishes to Julie and Jim. Editing any journal is effortful and time-consuming; editing a new one is even more so. Still, we know that the Editor and Associate Editor are equal to the task; one which is an extremely important one for the scientific and professional development of our Association and the field of behavior analysts.